



Cultivating a community of lifelong learners



Academic excellence is inseparable from creativity at Bedales. Our future-focussed curriculum inspires independent thought, deep inquiry and imaginative expression.

Young people flourish as themselves here. We believe education should be individual and experiential – qualifying young people both for the next stage of their education and preparing them for life.

Head of Bedales School, Will Goldsmith



Since 1893

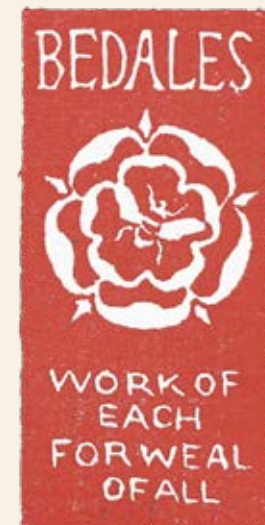
For over 130 years, we've championed an education that is academically stretching, liberating and holistic, helping young people grow into thoughtful and compassionate adults who understand themselves and their place in the world. Our vibrant boarding community adds depth and richness to school life, offering a home-from-home environment where young people develop independence, enduring friendships and a strong sense of belonging.

"Our son is thriving academically, not just with A Levels but in terms of mental stimulation, ambition and original thinking. The teachers are Bedales' best asset, instilling a love of learning and enthusiasm in him."

Senior School parent



Authentic relationships between students and staff nurture excellence in the individual while emphasising their responsibility to the wider community. Education at Bedales is therefore both personal and social: each student is known, valued and supported, while also learning to contribute to the wellbeing of others.



Work of each for weal of all

This founding principle continues to shape a creative, intellectually ambitious education. Bedales inspires a new generation of critical thinkers, creators and leaders by cultivating a community of lifelong learners through an innovative and challenging curriculum.

"A news organisation is sometimes viewed from the outside as an institution for lone wolves but here there still exists that wonderful combination of the essential individual spirit and the collective 'work of each for weal of all' culture that was at the heart of Bedales life and is still incredibly important to the FT."

John Ridding, Old Bedalian, BA (PPE) University of Oxford,
Hon Chairman, Financial Times and Special Executive Advisor, Nikkei Inc.



"Bedales encourages autonomy and self-motivation. The liberty and freedom to manage your time, and balance your work and play embeds a drive and self-motivation to succeed."

Jack Deane, Old Bedalian, BA (PPE) University of Exeter,
Entrepreneur and Manager, Jamie Oliver Cookery School

A forward-looking school

Innovation at Bedales is rooted in purpose, ensuring our education remains relevant, student-centred and intellectually alive. From Montessori influences at Bedales Prep and Pre-prep to the creation of the GCSE alternative **Bedales Assessed Courses**. And, with **one of the earliest School Councils** to be founded in the UK to **our pioneering approach to co-education**, Bedales has always led rather than followed.



What makes Bedales different – and why it matters

Innovative curriculum	A forward-looking curriculum informed by global best practice, equipping students with the lifelong skills they need to thrive in an uncertain world
Fostering Respect	First-name terms, fostering mutual respect, partnership and improved academic performance
Student Voice	Students help shape school life, individually and through the School Council, developing agency and responsibility
Growth Culture	A culture of trust, individuality and openness, where every voice is valued and each personality can flourish

Environmental understanding	A working farm within the school grounds and an Outdoor Work curriculum that build practical skills, teamwork, scientific and ecological understanding
Tradition and modernity	A campus where heritage and innovation meet, offering world-class facilities within a place students can call home
Authentic self-expression	Students choose what to wear, encouraging individuality, authenticity and self-expression rather than uniformity
Broadening opportunities	A wide-ranging bursary programme, supported by the school's John Badley Foundation to widen access and strengthen community diversity

“Our togetherness is really special; we are a tight-knit community, with a lot of friends across the year groups.”
Bedales Student

Student journey

Bedales Pre-prep (Nursery-Year 3)

In a beautiful converted barn and orchard setting, children develop early independence and intellectual curiosity through play-based exploration, outdoor learning and creative expression. Teachers encourage questioning, problem solving and confident communication from the start.

Bedales Prep (Years 4-8)

Academic rigour grows through hands-on, discussion-rich teaching. Small classes, project work and the 'head, hand, heart' ethos build analytical thinking, originality and resilience. Outdoor Work, music, drama, and art sit alongside high-quality core teaching and strong sports provision. Boarding begins in a small, family-focused setting, offering a gentle first experience of living away from home.



Bedales Senior (Years 9-11)

Students learn in exceptional facilities for the creative arts and core academic subjects in a well-equipped campus with extensive playing fields and farmland. Bedales Assessed Courses replace most GCSEs, promoting deeper scholarship, independent research and real-world application. Boarding strengthens community and personal responsibility.

Sixth Form (Years 12-13)

A Levels are taught with intellectual stretch and seminar-style dialogue, encouraging students to take on leadership roles while benefiting from an enrichment programme that broadens their academic and creative horizons. They leave as articulate, self-directed thinkers, progressing to internationally competitive universities and specialist arts pathways. Students also join Bedales' alumni network, which remains closely connected to the school, offering mentoring and supporting future opportunities.



A home that inspires creativity, collaboration and reflection

The farmland, woods, orchards, play areas and sports fields support a strong practical tradition. Architectural highlights include the Grade I listed Memorial Library, the Arts and Crafts Lupton Hall, the RIBA award winning Olivier Theatre, Orchard Building and Art & Design Building, the Prep's cross-disciplinary workshop and the Pre-prep's characterful barn housing the Nursery – all spaces that inspire creativity, collaboration and reflection.

"Students are supported to take real ownership of their learning and their lives. The pathway of each student is not the school's, but their own."

Chloe Hamill, Head of Sixth Form, Bedales Senior



Independent thinkers, set for life

Students are encouraged to explore ideas, consider alternative viewpoints and develop their own reasoning. They learn to think independently, express themselves clearly, listen generously, collaborate effectively and engage with the world as active, thoughtful citizens.

These qualities matter in a world shaped by rapid technological change, global interdependence and environmental urgency. Our students go on to a range of leading universities globally, art schools, conservatoires and vocational pathways - equipped with both strong academic foundations, and curiosity, independence and resilience.

Academic development:

Ambitious.
Creative.
Thinking
independently.
Practical skills.
Preparing for life
beyond school.

We want students to leave Bedales comfortable in their own skins, confident in their own minds, and ready to contribute meaningfully to the world.

"I've changed so much as a person. I've progressed in all my studies obviously but I've also become so much more confident in myself and who I am."

Bedales student

"We've seen our daughter so happily embracing academic and creative challenges and becoming socially confident, supported by the kindness of adults who truly understand her personality and needs. She was always a high-achieving wallflower before who got left to her own devices, so it is lovely to see her having such high-quality interactions."

Pre-prep School parent

Personal development:

Developing
a voice.
Self-confident.
Respectful
of difference.
Emotionally
intelligent.
Moral purpose.

The Future – Cultivating a community of lifelong learners

Building on its past, Bedales' 10-year strategy sets out our ambition to be a fully realised community of lifelong learners – curious, creative, responsible and connected to the world. The four strands – Learning, Living, Community and Environment – guide everything we do, from curriculum design to pastoral care.



"What I love about Bedales is that it remains identifiably itself... I found there an unwillingness to accept authority for its own sake and to make assumptions about how life should be, which was so refreshing. That an educational institution, instead of being a place of authority and conformity, could, at its best, cherish and celebrate the poetry and romance of life, was, and remains, wonderful and precious to me."

Anna Keay OBE, Old Bedalian, BA (Modern History) University of Oxford,
PhD Queen Mary University of London, CEO, The Landmark Trust

Educating the whole person

A Bedales education is shaped around the individual. Students are encouraged to understand themselves and others, developing the self-knowledge that underpins confidence and emotional intelligence. As students move through the school, they discover their talents and passions, find their voice and express it with clarity and purpose.



They learn to act with moral conviction and to contribute meaningfully to the world around them, recognising their responsibility to others as well as to themselves. Throughout their journey, personal development and wellbeing sit alongside academic ambition, ensuring that each young person grows not only in knowledge, but in integrity, creativity and compassion.

"It really broadened my horizons and interests to be at a school that's so creatively diverse."

Bedales student





Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs)

Bedales Assessed Courses (BACs) **provide a richer alternative to GCSEs**, prioritising creativity, critical thinking and deeper learning over narrow exam preparation

Assessment is varied and equitable - coursework, portfolios, vivas, group projects and real-world tasks - giving students **a more motivating and university-aligned experience**

BACs are **academically rigorous, externally moderated**, recognised by UCAS and shown by independent reviews to develop broader skills than GCSEs

Students progress confidently to top universities, art colleges and conservatoires supported by a future-facing curriculum now expanding into Sciences and Modern Languages and reducing GCSEs to just English Language and Maths

"...what freedom we had to make almost anything we wanted for our project, with only our imagination holding us back."

Bedales student

"We are passionate about helping young people reach their full potential while celebrating the joys of childhood. Our education lays a strong foundation for the future while opening up endless possibilities. We nurture confidence, resilience and curiosity in a warm and supportive atmosphere. Our campus allows outdoor learning to be woven into daily life, enriching a diverse curriculum that fosters individuality, academic excellence and creative expression."

Head of Bedales Prep & Pre-prep, Clare Kirkham

Admissions:



Discover Bedales

Visit us, meet our students and staff, and experience the warmth, creativity and openness that make Bedales unique.

Bedales School, Church Road, Steep,
Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2DG, UK.

bedales.org.uk





"Bedales made me what I am."

Tanya Ashken, Old Bedalian, Diploma (Silversmithing),
Central School of Arts and Crafts, Sculptor



bedales.org.uk